

SURVEY OF CURRENT EVENTS

GERMANS MAKE SEA RAID.

Ten German torpedo-boat destroyers attempted to raid the British cross-channel transport service last week, but the attempt failed, says an official statement issued by the British admiralty. Two of the German destroyers were sunk and the others were driven off.

One British torpedo-boat destroyer, the *Flirt*, is missing, the British statement adds, and another destroyer, the *Nubian*, was disabled by a torpedo and ran aground. Nine members of the crew of the *Fort* were saved.

The British admiralty announcement follows:

"During the night the enemy attempted a raid with ten destroyers on our cross-channel transport service. The attempt failed.

"One empty transport, the *Queen*, was sunk. The whole of her crew was saved.

"Two of the enemy destroyers were sunk and the rest were driven off.

"H. M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Flirt*, Lieutenant Richard P. Kellett, R. N., is missing and it is feared she may be lost, but nine of the crew have been saved.

"H. M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Nubian*, Commander Montague Bernard, R. N., was disabled by a torpedo and taken in tow, but, owing to the bad weather, the tow parted and she has grounded."

BERLIN PAPERS REJOICE.

The Berlin newspapers express profound joy over the capture of Constanza by the Teutonic allies. They point out the significance of the victory, as Constanza is the main port of Rumania for imports for military purposes, and especially valuable owing to its important railroad connections.

Commenting on the victory of Field Marshal von Mackensen's armies in the Rumanian province of Dobrudja, the military critic of the Overseas News Agency writes:

"The capture of Constanza by Bulgarian, German and Turkish troops under the command of Field Marshal von Mackensen is the hardest blow Rumania has received during the entire campaign. Through it the Rumanians have lost their largest seaport, a port noted in international trade for its shipments of grain and petroleum. Simultaneously the Rumanians lost their main line of communications with Russia by way of the Black Sea, a loss which is bound to have far-reaching consequence for Rumania in carrying on her military operations.

"Russia has been able to send to her ally by way of Constanza in large steamers material and men which found their way into interior Rumania on the main railroad line from Constanza to Bucharest. The marine transports are now limited in their operations to Sulina and the Danube ports, where only vessels of small tonnage can dock and unload.

"In addition to this general influence on Rumanian warfare, however, the loss of Constanza is of decisive importance as regards the military situation in Dobrudja. The railroad line from Constanza to Tchernavoda is already partly in the hands of the allied Germans, Turks and Bulgarians. East of Murfatlar this line has already been crossed by the attacking armies and von Mackensen's left wing is approaching Tchernavoda. For these reasons the section of the railroad between Murfatlar and Tchernavoda is also apparently without value to

the Rumanians. Thus the quick transport of troops and artillery to especially threatened points of the Dobrudja front is rendered impossible. Furthermore an excellent base of operations has been taken from the Rumanians and Russians.

"The encircling movement by Teutonic forces at Hermannstadt changed the Transylvania adventure of the Rumanians into a speedy and complete defeat. In the same way the capture of Constanza and the interruption of railroad communication for the Rumanians constitutes a decisive blow to them in the Dobrudja theater. The advance planned by the Rumanians and Russians through Dobrudja against the Bulgarians and the line of communication between Sofia and Constantinople has thus been frustrated."

FRENCH REWIN DOUAUMONT.

By a powerful stroke the French forces under General Nivelle opened an entirely new phase of the Verdun campaign by piercing the German lines on a front of more than four miles on the east bank of the Meuse. In the center the advance reached a depth of nearly two miles. So far 3,500 prisoners and large quantities of war material have been captured.

The famous fort of Douaumont, which had already changed hands many times, was captured, as well as the village of Douaumont, lying to the northeast. The French also took La Caillette wood in its entirety, advancing to the western outskirts of the village of Vaux.

On the left wing Thiaumont redoubt and the fortified farm of the same name fell into the hands of the victors, who, continuing their dash forward, stormed the quarries of Haudremont, establishing a new line along the road running from Bras through Haudremont wood to Douaumont.

The fact that the Germans were withdrawing men and guns from Verdun to reinforce their hard-pressed lines on the Somme has been mentioned several times in the French official reports. This is emphasized again in a dispatch from the correspondent of *La Liberte* on the Somme, who says that the growing intensity of the bombardment between Ancre and the Somme indicates that the Germans are preparing for another attempt to remedy a situation which is becoming more critical for them each day.

Emperor William, adds the correspondent, has even been reported to be at Bapaume personally overseeing the preliminaries for the formidable counter-offensive in view, for which the German army on the Somme front is said to have received strong reinforcements in infantry, and more especially in artillery.

BRITAIN MODIFIES TOBACCO EMBARGO.

The British Government has notified the State Department, through the British Embassy, that it has agreed to remove the restrictions imposed to the tobacco embargo to the extent of permitting to go forward all tobacco for which bona fide contracts were entered into before July 15th last and which were started in rail shipment under through bill of lading before August 31st.

It is estimated that under this concession between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 worth of tobacco held in Copenhagen and Rotterdam under importation guarantees will become subject to release, and that a smaller amount which was shipped by rail

before August 31st, but which has been detained at the Atlantic seaboard, will be permitted to go forward to Scandinavian ports and the Netherlands without restrictions. Because of inadequate warehouse facilities and the dampness and chilliness of the atmosphere, the special brands of tobacco designed solely for use in those countries would have been almost a complete loss unless relief had been given quickly. The tobacco shipped under this concession may be reshipped from Holland and Scandinavian countries into the territory of the Central Powers.

The British embargo against the shipment of tobacco, except as modified by this concession, will remain in force. In announcing the concession the British Embassy said:

"The British authorities regard as most important the provision that the goods must have been shipped on a through bill of lading for land and sea carriage, or under direct ocean bill, before August 31st, and they must insist upon its fulfilment."

The State Department adds this statement to the Embassy announcement:

"It was at first announced as a concession to the American tobacco interests that tobacco bought and paid for prior to August 4th and shipped prior to August 31st would be allowed to go forward free of the restrictions referred to above. It was found at once that this concession was inadequate to relieve the hardships brought upon the tobacco interests by the sudden imposition of the restrictions named, and the Department of State took up the question with the British Government and has since made every effort possible to secure a more favorable rule. While the points at issue were under discussion a large number of shipments went forward and were detained upon arrival at the various ports at which they respectively arrived.

"Officers of the department express much satisfaction over the concession given."

TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS KILLED IN BATTLE.

In an engagement between American troops and Santo Domingo rebel forces General Ramon Batista was killed. Several Americans are also reported killed, including two officers, and one American officer was wounded. The names of the American officers killed are given as Captains William Low and Atwood. Lieutenant Morrison was wounded.

The American commander attempted to arrest General Batista, who resisted and ordered an attack on the American forces. Fighting continued for a considerable time, but the rebels eventually were defeated.

The engagement took place opposite Santo Domingo City and caused somewhat of a panic in the capital. Reinforcements were sent there to aid American troops in maintaining order. The number of killed and wounded in the fight is at present not known.

A revolt occurred in the Dominican army several weeks ago, but American marines and bluejackets soon had control of the situation. They were reinforced with American troops from Haiti.

The available naval lists make no mention of Captain Atwood, who is reported as having been killed.

Captain William W. Low was attached to the First Brigade of Marines, stationed recently at Port au Prince.

Lieutenant Victor I. Morrison is listed as attached to the First Brigade of Marines.

Since the landing of the American marines in Santo Domingo, on May 6th last, there have been several clashes, resulting in the deaths of at least ten Americans. The first casualty on the American side, occurred June 4th, when Captain Hirschinger was killed while landing reinforcements for American troops on the island.

The trouble in Santo Domingo started when a motion to impeach President Jimenez for alleged violation of the Constitution in connection with the budget was passed by the Dominican Senate. Following a threat of armed intervention by the United States Minister, Mr. Russell, Jimenez resigned on May 8th. Admiral Caperton, in charge of the American forces, took possession of the capital eight days later.

FOR LASTING PEACE.

No man had more direct or sure information about the responsibility for the beginning of the European war than Sir Edward Grey. No man can speak now with greater authority on that subject than Viscount Grey. It was he that made the overtures for a conference, accepted by Russia, France and Italy, that were refused by Germany. When he says that he "would like nothing better than to see those statements that Russia's mobilization was an aggressive one" investigated before an independent and impartial tribunal, he puts forth a challenge that Berlin will never accept. But the pen of history will write the truth, and it will never write anything that will give support to the German contention that the war was forced upon Germany. In his speech at the Foreign Press Association luncheon, Viscount Grey declared that "the war was forced by Germany upon Europe"; therefore, "it is the Allies who must have guarantees for future peace."

It is significant that the British Minister of Foreign Affairs should at this time have expressed his views about the duty of neutral countries after the war. "I believe the best work neutrals can do for the moment," he said, "is to try to prevent a war like this from happening again." "I observe," he continued, "that not only President Wilson, but Mr. Hughes, is supporting a league started, not with the object of interfering with the belligerents in this war, but which will do its part in making peace secure in the future." It will be no affair of passing resolutions and making protests. The nations who become members of the league "must be prepared to undertake no more than they are able to uphold by force, and to see, when the time comes, that it is upheld by force."

What the preparation for the establishment and for the work of the League of Peace must be was set forth by Viscount Grey in unmistakable language. The world must be freed "from the oppression of Prussian militarism. We know that if mankind has any birthright, it is that of peace and liberty, and it is for that we are fighting." The Allies will not make peace until they "have established the supremacy and right of free development under equal conditions, each in accord with its genius, of all states, great and small, as a family of civilized mankind. Treitschke would have held that to be a monstrous political heresy. From the Prussian point of view it is a counsel of feebleness. But it is a declaration of principle to which every one of the Allies and all nations neutral in this war will give cordial assent.—New York Times.